## BEFORE

## THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

## SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 2018-198-E - ORDER NO. 2018-446

JULY 26, 2018

IN RE: Application of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC ) ORDER APPROVING for Approval of Unmetered Service Rider US ) UNMETERED SERVICE ) RIDER US

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the "Commission") on the request of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC ("DEC" or the "Company") for approval of Unmetered Service Rider US ("Rider US"), which is a new tariff to provide unmetered service to customers with electrical requirements of 100 watts or less, where metered service is deemed to be either impractical or uneconomical. DEC also requests waiver of the requirements of Commission Regulation 103-339(2), which concerns bill forms, since it is not possible to render meter readings on a customer's bill when service is provided on an unmetered basis. The Commission previously approved an unmetered service rider proposed by Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc. (now Duke Energy Progress, LLC).

According to the Company, it has received numerous requests from customers seeking to install low-wattage electrical equipment, such as wireless internet equipment and cameras, on Company-owned lighting poles and posts. This type of equipment requires minimal electrical support and no more than 100 watts of electricity. Rider US would only apply to equipment located on lighting poles that can easily accommodate this type of service and where the provision of metered service is typically difficult to provide.

Rider US includes an energy charge based upon estimated monthly usage within three distinct wattage ranges. The applicable wattage range shall be designated by the Company and customer at the time of installation. Unmetered service in this situation benefits both DEC and the customer, according to DEC, as DEC avoids the cost of installing a meter while the customer's equipment can be installed at a lower cost.

As reflected in Rider US, the monthly bill for service under the tariff is linked to the already-approved rates contained in Small General Service Schedule SGS. Under Rider US, the customer would pay the SGS Basic Facilities Charge, plus a charge for monthly estimated usage at the SGS energy rate applicable to the first 3,000 kilowatt-hours ("kWh") of usage and all other charges applicable to Schedule SGS. This approach offers these customers the same pricing as other similarly situated small-use customers with metered service, while reducing the Company's cost of rendering service by avoiding metering-related costs. To account for this cost saving, the Company proposes to reduce the estimated monthly usage for each wattage range by 4 kWh per month. Customers may request metered service for smaller installations if they deem it to be advantageous.

The Office of Regulatory Staff has reviewed the request, and does not oppose it. S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-27-870 (F) states that the Commission may allow rates or tariffs to be put into effect without notice and hearing when such rates or tariffs do not require a determination of the entire rate structure and overall rate of return. The DEC request is consistent with this description.

Accordingly, Rider US is approved as filed. DEC has received numerous requests from customers seeking to install low-wattage electrical equipment on Company-owned

DOCKET NO. 2018-198-E – ORDER NO. 2018-446

JULY 26, 2018

PAGE 3

lighting poles and posts. Rider US would benefit both DEC and the customer, since DEC

clearly avoids the cost of installing a meter while the customer's equipment can be installed

at a lower cost. Also, ORS does not oppose the approval. Further, the provisions of

Commission Regulation 103-339(2) are hereby waived, since it is not possible to render

meter readings on a customer's bill when service is provided on an unmetered basis. DEC

shall file the tariff in the Commission's e-tariff system within 10 days of receipt of this

Order.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the

Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Comer H. "Randy" Randall, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jocelyn Boyd, Chief Clerk/Administrator